

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claim 1-18 are pending, of which claims 1-14 have been amended and claims 17-37 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 3-4, and 12-16 are directed to allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations in the base claim from which they depend and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability.

35 U.S.C. §102 Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,938,776 to Sicola et al. (hereinafter "Sicola").

Sicola

Sicola discloses a method and apparatus for detecting a narrow SCSI device illegally installed at a slot assigned to a wide SCSI device. To detect the narrow SCSI device installed at an illegal location, high ID and low ID SCSI bus address pairs are set as test pairs for the SCSI subsystem. The low ID is the alias of the high ID if a narrow SCSI device is installed at the high ID slot. To detect a conflict with a controller ID, a non-responsive ID bus address that corresponds to a slot known to be unused is called. A response to this call indicates a narrow SCSI device installed at the high ID of the test pair and the narrow SCSI device at the high ID has configured to an alias bus address matching the controller ID. See *Abstract* of Sicola.

Specific Claim Rejections

Independent claims 1 and 11 are rejected as anticipated by Sicola. Claim 1 is amended to recite “a mass storage system having a plurality of reporting groups.” This feature is not taught or suggested by Sicola.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite “a data storage complex containing a plurality of reporting groups.” This feature is not taught or suggested by Sicola.

Claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend from claims 1 and 11 are also in condition for allowance and any further rejections are rendered moot.

Additionally, claims are also been amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors.

New claims

New claims 17-37 are added.

New claim 17 recites “a plurality of reporting groups.” This feature is not taught or suggested by Sicola. Claims 18-24 depend from claim 17.

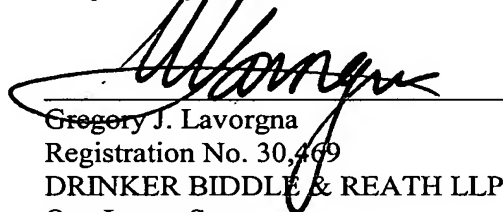
New claim 25 comprises the subject matter of original claim 3 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations in the base claim from which it depended and any intervening claims. The examiner indicated that this claim is allowable. New claims 26-32 depend from claim 25.

New claim 33 comprises the subject matter of original claim 12 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations in the base claim from which it depended and any intervening claims. The examiner has indicated this claim is allowable. New claims 34-37 depend from claim 33. Thus, claims 17-37 are all in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the pending claims. If any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Lavorgna', is written over a horizontal line.

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